MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JANUARY 1983

Iraq

Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi will be relieved of his post and appointed minister of state at the presidential office while Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz will be appointed foreign minister, Baghdad radio reported citing a 24 January Revolution Command Council decree. Radio Monte Carlo attributed the Cabinet change to Hammadi's health.

Meanwhile, an official Iraqi spokesman condemned the Iranian-Libyan-Syrian statement issued in Damascus which demanded an end to all types of aid to Iraq and called for the overthrow of President Husayn, according to INA. The spokesman declared that the Damascus and Tripoli regimes have violated the basic rules of Arab solidarity, the Arab joint defense pact, and the principles of Arabism. He called on the Arab governments to adopt a "frank" attitude toward "this abnormal act" and said Iraq hopes that the Arab League will shoulder its responsibilities, condemn this attack, and take the "appropriate practical measures" against the two regimes, INA added.

In another development large consignments of sophisticated Soviet weapons began arriving in Iraq last week via the Jordanian port of 'Aqaba, the London paper AL-MAJALLAH reported confirming an earlier report.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Negotiations -- The delegations at Khaldah discussed general aspects of the Israeli and Lebanese positions, reviewing in particular the question of security arrangements, an Israeli spokesman announced at the end of the talks in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. The newly established subcommittees began their work and will meet again in Isreal on 25 or 26 January, he added. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported that the subcommittees will not meet until 27 January. IDF Radio said the subcommittees made no real progress at Khaldah, and a Lebanese official source cited by Beirut radio said the talks were held in "a tense atmosphere" with "difficult debates" demonstrating the extent of differences on basic matters. The atmosphere of the debate has caused a problem and creates doubt whether the committees can continue their work, the Lebanese official added.

Noting U.S.-Iraeli differences over the manning of early warning stations, Voice of Lebanon radio confirmed Lebanon's agreement that an international force should operate such stations. Meanwhile, Israeli military sources disclosed that Israel wants three stations: one for electronic equipment on Jabal al-Baruk and two other camps more like military bases near Sidon and An-Nabatiyah, HA'ARETZ reported. Although Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the disagreement with the United States on the early warning stations has made the debate over the withdrawal conditions more difficult, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir later praised the United States' "very useful mediation" in helping bridge the gaps between Israel and Lebanon, according to Jerusalem radio reports.

Security Situation -- The commander of the IDF northern command asserted that the U.S. Marines in Beirut have unwittingly become a buffer shielding the "terrorists," Jerusalem radio reported. While a U.S. military spokesman cited by IDF Radio denied Israeli allegations that the 24 January explosion at Khaldah was caused by a projectile fired from an area under U.S. military control, Jerusalem radio quoted a senior U.S. source as saying that the U.S. Marines cannot completely prevent infiltrations into the areas they control.

In another development the PLO claimed responsibility for a 7 January attack on an IDF patrol south of Beirut and for a 23 January attack on an IDF position near 'Ammiq in the Al-Biqa' valley, according to KUNA and Baghdad Voice of PLO radio.

OPEC

The emergency meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva ended without a firm agreement on a production cut or on production quotas, although the ministers agreed "informally" to set a lower production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day, KUNA reported, adding that the talks collapsed over the question of price differentials for African light crude. Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani described the conference as a "complete failure," KUNA added. According to AFP, Shaykh Yamani said that the Kingdom will "do its best" to maintain OPEC's current reference oil price at $34 per barrel and that the short-term prospects of the oil market are "not bright." AFP also quoted Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi as declaring that Saudi Arabia "has lost its major role" within OPEC and that "the political strength of Iran" compelled the Kingdom to reduce its oil production. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah announced that Kuwait would "respect" the $34 reference price and that if other OPEC members fail to do so "it is only natural that we protect our interests," KUNA noted.

Syria

Damascus is preparing for an "eventual" Israeli attack, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a TISHRIN article by Culture Minister Najah al-'Attap. The minister said Syrian forces are more prepared now than they were during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, stressing that Syria is taking the Israeli threat "seriously." Meanwhile, Syria has received new and sophisticated Soviet military hardware which includes air-to-air missiles and modifications for MIG-23's, as well as a sophisticated network of missiles along the Syrian border with "significant support" from Soviet experts, according to the Paris magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL citing well-informed Arab sources.

PLO

Relations With Jordan -- The Palestinians are prepared for immediate unity with Jordan "on a federal or confederal basis" if a Palestinian state is established, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Paris magazine KUL AL-'ARAB in an interview reported by MENA. The PLO leader expressed satisfaction with his meetings with King Husayn but said he does not share Husayn's optimism about the results of the latter's recent visit to Washington.

London Visit -- The PLO will reply in a week to Britain's latest proposal concerning Palestinian participation in the Arab seven-member committee's visit to London, 'Arafat announced in Aden. In a statement, which was reported by AFP, he also said the Palestinian delegate must be a PLO member, though not necessarily a high-ranking official, and must meet not only Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher but also Queen Elizabeth II.

Egypt

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj arrived in Cairo for a 2-week visit to Egypt and hopes to meet President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, MENA reported.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi returned to Tripoli following his official visit to Romania during which he held talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and signed a friendship and cooperation treaty, JANA reported.

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KABUL OIL SUPPLIES 'ADEQUATE;' HOARDERS ARRESTED

LD211958 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Sugar and Oil Products today told BAKHTAR that adequate oil supplies have arrived in Kabul and citizens' needs are being met.

The spokesman added that 500,000 liters of oil were distributed today in the seven areas of the city by stationary and mobile tankers; thereafter, oil distribution will continue normally.

The Department of Sugar and Oil Products said serious efforts are being made by party and security officials to arrest oil hoarders who further disrupt distribution. A large quantity of oil which had been stored by hoarders was discovered today with documents and evidence; the hoarders were handed over to the legal authorities. A number of storekeepers who were treacherously selling oil at inflated prices also were arrested by party officials and city security forces.

According to another report, more than 16,000 liters of gasoline, kerosene, and diesel oil which had been illegally hoarded by Zaraf 'Ali, son of Joma Hasan, at Sara-e Malek were discovered today by the security forces; the hoarders were arrested. A spokesman for the security forces told a BAKHTAR correspondent that the 31 barrels of hoarded oil were confiscated and the hoarders are under investigation.

Further Report

LD230955 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Excerpt] A spokesman of the Department of Sugar and Oil Products today told BAKHTAR that with the arrival of a sufficient quantity of petroleum products to Kabul the previous difficulties in this respect have been removed and the esteemed citizens can obtain the oil they require from stationary and mobile tankers.

The source added that the procedure for the distribution of oil products became normal as of yesterday; only today approximately 550,000 liters of petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel fuel, and kerosene, have been distributed to the citizens.

According to another report, more than 18,000 liters of diesel fuel illegally stored in a market in Kolola-Poshta [Kabul City] were discovered this morning by the personnel of the security forces.

A security force spokesman told the BAKHTAR correspondent that the above amount of oil -- hoarded by (Yaqob), son of (Merza Husayn), and (Akhtar Mohamad), son of (Nader), residing in Char-Qala-e Wazerabad; (Ali Mohammad), sone of (Mohammad O'mar), residing in Panjsher; [name indistinct], son of (Merza Ali), residing in Vardak Province -- have been handed over to the Department of Sugar and Oil Products and the case is under investigation.

Likewise, more than 1,000 liters of kerosene and gasoline, stored illegally by a number of hoarders, have been discovered in two markets in Kolola-Poshta and Shahrara by the personnel of security ward 4 in Kabul City.

POLITBURO MEMBER ON TASKS, 'COUNTERREVOLUTION'

AU211525 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 20 Jan 83 p 6

[Correspondent Josef Vicek interview with PDPA Central Committee Politburo member (?Najibollah) in Kabul -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] What are the PDPA's tasks in the current phase of the April Revolution?

[Answer] Prior to the April Revolution of 1978, Afghanistan was a backward country, an amalgamation of the feudal and the tribal system. And even under the king, the central state power was considerably limited in many places in Afghanistan. In a number of regions, powerful estate owners and tribal chieftains rather than the sovereign ruled their territories, holding both the court and the executive powers. In this respect, a number of problems still exist. In addition, Afghanistan is a multinational state and this also creates a number of problems. Apart from that, we have here the Islamic faith which has become firmly rooted among Afghanistan's nations and nationalities during the approximately 1,400 years of its existence.

In the first phase of the April Revolution, and particularly under Amin, these peculiarities were not being taken into consideration. As a consequence, after the new party leadership was set up with Comrade B. Karmal at its head, the party and the revolution were faced with a number of complicated problems which we now are gradually resolving.

[Question] How is the party coping with these tasks?

[Answer] It was particularly the rectification of errors, mistakes, and illegalities from the period of Amin's rule of terror that had become the main and basic task of the PDPA in the second phase of the April Revolution. Let's take, for instance, the issue of party unity. Under Amin, the party was split into the Parchamis and Khalqis and also into a number of other factions. Although the working people had preserved their achievements in that period, they gradually started to break away from the party. This applies to the workers class and the far more numerous farmers who even began to adopt hostile positions. Other classes and stratas, particularly middle-level ones, also began to waver. The power bodies, the army, public security (sarandoy), and state security (KHAD), were all found to be in a state of disintegration and in the end were incapable of fulfilling their tasks. It can be said that currently the party is succeeding in effectively solving these problems.

[Question] How many members does the PDPA now have?

[Answer] The party's membership base greatly suffered in the period of Amin's terror. At present, we can see a great growth of party ranks. Whereas in the past the PDPA had some 25,000 members, it now has four times as many. The percentage of newly accepted workers and farmers is constantly increasing. In 1982, they accounted for all of 40 percent of the membership base. We also have achieved great success in building the youth organization, which already has some 100,000 members from among the young people, and also the trade unions, the Democratic Organization of Afghan Women and the pioneer organization. Creative [artists] unions, which formerly did not even exist, are successfully developing their activities. The Afghan tribes also have their own joint organization. All these organizations are operating within the framework of the National Fatherland Front. It can be said that the National Fatherland Front is a new specific expression of the broad democratism of Afghan society -- that it is a broad anti-imperialist front of our people.

[Question] What is the main current task of the Afghan armed formations? [as heard]

[Answer] The main thing is to strengthen our army technically, both in terms of quantity and of cadres, and to consolidate through political work the high political and moral standards of all its members. We have achieved great successes in this field and our armed forces are now successfully braving the enemy. Formerly, under Amin, they were incapable of doing this. And it is the same with the security services.

[Question] What successes did you achieve in the fight against the counterrevolution?

[Answer] We don't want war. It is conducted against us without any declaration by the forces of international imperialism with the United States at their head. War was foisted on us. Our revolution is capable of successfully defending itself. The situation in Afghan society has radically changed. We enjoy the people's support. As has already been said, most Afghan citizens are believers. And they support the April Revolution. Our people also have grasped that the Soviet Union is a friend who will not forsake us halfway through.

It is typical that differentiation among the counterrevolutionary gangs increases with the successes of the revolution. A number of gang members have realized that the counterrevolution cannot defeat us and have left their leaders and now they are gradually finding their way to us.

In December 1979, when the new party and state leadership took over the government, more than 60 percent of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was held by counterrevolutionary gangs. Now all provinces, districts, and cities are in government hands. Our enemies have preserved a certain political influence in some districts, in small towns and villages. But by no account is this influence as extensive as Western propaganda describes it. The counterrevolution is incapable of ruling over these areas.

[Question] What would you say about the prospect of settling the situation around Afghanistan?

[Answer] World imperialism, especially the United States, is not interested in achieving peace in our country. They are maintaining some 80 camps of Afghan counterrevolutionaries on Pakistani territory, from where armed sallies are being undertaken against us. In connection with Afghanistan, the United States has many "irons in the fire." It wants to use the fabricated Afghan problem to discredit Soviet Union's foreign policy and to undermine the entire policy of international detente.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has already declared many times that it is in favor of a political settlement of the Afghan situation. However, for this, one must ensure a complete and reliable halt to armed and other interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. This would eliminate the reasons that led the Afghan Government to ask the Soviet Union to dispatch a limited military contingent to the country.

REPORTAGE ON ROK FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

22 January Arrival

BK230516 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Yi Pom-sok arrived in New Delhi last night on a 3-day visit. He is accompanied by Madame Yi and senior officials.

Talking to newsmen after his arrival, Yi said that he has come to India to renew friendship between the two countries. He said he will touch upon more economic matters between India and his country, particularly exports from India to his country.

During his stay in the capital, Yi will call on the president, the vice president, and the prime minister. He will also have talks with the external affairs minister on matters of bilateral interest and on important world issues. Before leaving for Bangkok on Tuesday, Yi will visit the engineering trade fair.

Talks With Rao

BK230927 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] India and the Republic of Korea today reviewed the international situation and regional development. They have decided to take a series of steps to correct the imbalances in their bilateral trade and diversify economic and technical cooperation.

Leader of the Republic of Korea delegation and the foreign minister of that country, Yi Pom-sok assured External Affairs Minister Harasimha Rao that his country will consider measures to rectify the balance of trade, which is heavily against India.

Yi, who arrived in New Delhi last night on a 3-day official visit, first met Rao without aides and then held discussions with him. Yi also apprised Rao of the efforts of his government to bring about unification of the two Koreas. Rao told him of the preparations being made for the nonaligned summit.

Yi will also call on the president, the vice president, and the prime minister.

Rao, Yi Banquet Remarks

BK240415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] India has called for peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula without outside intervention. Addressing a banquet given in honor of the foreign minister of the Republic of Korea, Yi Pom-sok, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said throughout history the people of the Korean Peninsula have lived, struggled, and often suffered together. Reiterating India's firm commitment to the policy of nonalignment, Rao said this has stemmed from her struggle for independence and earnest quest for friendship with all countries. He said his talks with Yi covered important bilateral and international issues. They were extremely useful. The two countries have undertaken to work for peace and security in the region.

In his reply, the South Korean foreign minister appreciated India's role in the Nonaligned Movement. He said India has become a major advocate of the aspirations of the Third World. He hoped that the two countries, as equal partners in Asia, will continue to expand their friendly cooperation in various fields. Yi Pom-sok has extended an invitation to Narasimha Rao to visit Seoul. Rao has accepted the invitation.

Meeting With Gandhi

BK250525 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The foreign minister of Republic of Korea, Yi Pom-sok, called on Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday and was with her for about 20 minutes. He assured Mrs Gandhi that his country will take all possible measures to reduce the trade gap with India. Yi also touched upon the question of reunification of South and North Korea. He said his country is confident that under Mrs Gandhi's leadership the Nonaligned Movement would achieve greater strength and success. He praised the satellite transmission of the Asian games to his country and said that a large number of Koreans watched the games with keen interest.

TALKS ON AKALI ISSUE REMAIN 'INCONCLUSIVE'

BK241630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The tripartite talks between the center, the opposition leaders, and the Akali delegation held in New Delhi this afternoon remained inconclusive and will be resumed tomorrow.

Briefing newsmen after today's discussions, Home Minister Sethi said that this meeting was mainly for the opposition to hear the Akali views. He said as the opposition leaders understood, the issues seem to have narrowed down. Sethi also said Akali leaders clarified their stand on various demands.

The decision to hold tripartite talks was taken at the meeting the prime minister had with the opposition leaders on Friday. The prime minister has expressed the hope that the tripartite meeting being held in New Delhi will help in solving the Punjab tangle. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to a group of Shiromani Akali Dal workers from Uttar Pradesh led by Jathedar (Kuldip Singh). She said Sikhs are part and parcel of the country and we are proud of them. (Kuldip Singh) submitted a memorandum to the prime minister on the Punjab issue.

CURFEW SET IN ASSAM; 'VIOLENT INCIDENTS' CITED

BK250523 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] In Assam, a 24-hour curfew has been clamped in (Gahigaon) in Darrang District following violent incidents. The police opened fire yesterday to disperse a violent mob which attacked a police outpost. One person was killed in the firing. Official reports in Gauhati said that the crowd remained violent in spite of baton charge by police and central reserve police force personnel. The mob also tried to snatch rifles from the police personnel. Fresh reinforcements have been rushed to the area and police patrolling has been intensified. The situation is now under control.

Meanwhile, the curfew has been lifted from (Kampur) town in Nowgong District following improvement in the situation.

YAQUB KHAN, UN'S CORDOVEZ DISCUSS AFGHANISTAN

BK241534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative, Diego Cordovez, had two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today. The Radio Pakistan representative says the current talks are a continuation of the series of indirect talks held in Geneva last June to seek a political solution to the Afghan problem. The talks will continue tomorrow.

ZIAUL HAQ SPEAKS ON ISLAMIC POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

BK241652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he is fully determined to give an Islam-oriented political framework to the nation by 14 August. Talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport this afternoon, he said he could not give any specific dates as two or three committees appointed by him for this purpose are working on it. He said he would be able to present the political framework to the nation only after these committees complete their work. The president said he is seeking a political structure that could be basically in line with Islamic principles. In this respect, they have a specific ideology before them and they will not deviate from that. This is the Islamic aspect that cannot be ignored.

Replying to a question about recent increase in prices, the president said the government is very much conscious of the fact that there should not be any unnecessary increase in prices. The government is trying its best to check the unreasonable trend of increasing prices.

This evening in Lahore, the president was informed of the implementation of the ushr system from the current spring season and the distribution of the zakat amount collected in the province. Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan also was present on the occasion. The president was apprised of the peace and order situation in the province.

HYDERABAD TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS BOYCOTT CLASSES

GF241846 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, Jan 19 -- The students of Hyderabad Government College of Technology boycotted their classes and held a protest meeting to press for the acceptance of their demands here on Wednesday. The meeting demanded the establishment of a technical university in Pakistan, and grade 16 to diploma engineers and declared that the students of the College of Technology would continue boycott of their classes throughout the country till the acceptance of their genuine demands.

The meeting also demanded immediate release of the arrested students of Sahiwal Polytechnic and vehemently condemned the lathi charge on the students of technology and demanded that this college be reopened forthwith.

POLICE RECOVER FIREARMS FROM STUDENT HOSTEL

GF241851 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 19 -- Islamabad police yesterday recovered a fairly large quantity of firearms from students hostel of the government polytechnic immediately after a clash with students.

The police also arrested over 12 students for possessing these weapons which include daggers and iron-bars. The trouble started when a group of local polytechnic students held a demonstration to press for their demands. A police party which asked them to disperse was reportedly attacked by the students resulting in serious injuries to students and some policemen. A police party later searched the students hostel and asked them to vacate it immediately.

'POLICE BRUTALITY' AGAINST STUDENTS CONDEMNED

GF240800 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 20 Jan 83 p 3

[Editorial: "The Police Savagery at the University"]

[Text] The Karachi police subjected the peaceful and unarmed students at Karachi University to indiscriminate baton charges and tear gas shelling last Wednesday (18 January). It was the worst example of savagery and animal behavior.

The Gulshan-e Iqbal police force with the help of the Sind constabulary began this most condemnable and abominable action without any provocation from the students. It happened when a group of students formed a procession and began chanting slogans on its way to meet the vice chancellor at the Chemistry Department. As soon as the procession reached the administrative building, the police units stationed there used their batons and tear gas shells on the students. The batons and tear gas shells were aimed at the heads of the students in the procession. Running in hot pursuit of the fleeing students, the police spread all over the university campus within a matter of seconds. The armed policemen even beat up uninvolved students standing as far away as the Civics and Statistics Departments. The policemen and the constabulary personnel even entered the adjoining buildings and beat up the students. The police lobbed tear gas shells at a passing bus packed with students. As a result of this police war against the students, nine students were admitted to the hospital for the injuries they received, five of them being severely injured. After giving uncalled for beatings to the students, the police lodged criminal charges against nine students and arrested six on the spot. The charges were resisting police and causing damage to government buildings.

Under the auspices of the Karachi University Student Union, a peaceful movement has been in progress since 1 January. The students demand that the semester system and the honors classes be continued as before, the students arrested be released, and the criminal charges against the students be withdrawn. To have their demands accepted, the students have been marching within the city, calling on officials, and have thus far broken no laws. However, instead of any favorable reaction by the provincial or city administration, the most extreme baton charge in the history of Karachi University was staged on this occasion. More students have been jailed since and more false charges have been filed. Moreover, the baton charge and use of tear gas shells against the student body was done under orders of the local station house office (SHO), the local police head. The district magistrate or any other responsible official was not present. The superintendent of police and his assistant arrived much later.

We condemn the police highhandedness against the student body at Karachi University and deplore the callous attitude of the city and provincial administrations concerning student affairs. It is a dereliction of duty to leave the students at the mercy of a petty official like the local SHO and is an insult to the dignity of the university and its students. We call upon the provincial governor to pay immediate attention to this affair and ask him to take severe action against the officials involved. We call upon him to accept the just demand of the students. As the head of the provincial administration, he should have the sense to realize that the parents will not continue to accept exposing their children to police brutality.

NEPAL

THAPA TO VISIT U.S. FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

BK241706 Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Katmandu, Jan. 24 (AFP) -- Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa is to visit the United States in the first half of February for medical treatment, sources close to the Nepalese Foreign Ministry told AFP. The sources said that during his stay in the United States, Mr. Thapa will have a general health checkup and undergo eye treatment for his corneal ulcer.

Before going to Washington, Mr. Thapa will also visit Dhaka, Islamabad and some Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia. On way back home he will stop over in London and New Delhi for brief formal visits at the invitation of the two governments.

Prime Minister Thapa, 58, is the first elected prime minister under the 23-year-old party-less Panchayat system which replaced the parliamentary system of government in 1960.

SRI LANKA

TESTS SHOW SPACE OBJECT 'COULD BE' FROM COSMOS

BK241620 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Preliminary tests carried out at the radio isotopes center in the University of Colombo appear to have shown that the fiery object that dropped from the sky on Saturday and was found by two boys in the village of (Hatiakanda) near Mawatagama could be a part of the disabled Cosmos satellite. Dr Granville Dharmawardena, chairman of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Authority, said that ash collected from the crash site suggested that the object was made of magnesium, a light metal commonly used in satellites.

TAMIL 'MILITANTS' BLAMED FOR 'EXECUTION'

BK211532 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan. 21 (AFP) -- Three persons have been arrested in a massive man-hunt for the killer of a ruling United National Party (UNP) politician, who was shot dead at his northern home on Wednesday night.

K.T. Pulendran, 42, who was the director of two state-owned corporations, was the second UNP politician in the north to be gunned down in the last seven months.

The killing appears to be a "terrorist" execution and the police are blaming Tamil separatist militants. They said Mr. Pulendran was shot in the back of the head while he was watching television at home and the gunmen had used the sound of a train pulling into a nearby station to muffle the noise of the shots.

President Junius Jayewardene and Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa are expected to fly north to attend the funeral on Sunday.

According to the SUN newspaper, the separatists' campaign of violence has also claimed Tamil considered "traitors" for supporting political parties dominated by the majority Sinhala-speaking community.

MUSAVI DISCUSSES CABINET SESSION, OPEC

LD231414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi interview in Tehran on 23 January -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Musavi, could you tell us what issues were raised and what reports were submitted by ministers in today's Cabinet session?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In today's Cabinet session, we heard three reports and some [words indistinct]. (?We heard reports on) Dr Velayat's visit to Syria and Mr 'Asgar-Owladi's visits to (?Syria) and Yugoslavia. We also discussed the bill on the constitution of the revolution committees, which has not been approved. We had some political news and analyses of the country's situation, the situation on the fronts and the like.

[Question] An OPEC conference will be held in Geneva to determine its members' production quotas. Iran will suggest a quota of 17 million barrels for all members and a price of $34 per barrel. But Arabia [as heard] has a determining role from the point of view of the tension it creates in the market. Could you tell us how oil can be used as a weapon in the hands of the oppressed and how they can coordinate their views in this organization?

[Answer] With an increase in our country's activities on the international scene, including in the oil market, using oil even as a political tool weakens Arabia's role. In this connection, Arabia makes noises because of the boundless oil resources given it by God, not to the rulers, of course, but to the land. The fact is that by making these noises they can only progress so far because there is the question of huge investments in oil exploration and extraction in the West. However much Arabia needs to limit us or bankrupt us from the point of view of prices or oil exports, it cannot reduce its prices below a certain limit because then it would have to confront Western companies and so on. From this point of view, the West and Arabia are facing an intense contradiction, due to the interests of some of their own companies and due to the strategic aims they have in the region.

What is certain is that unity of opinion between our country and some friendly countries in OPEC and also our belief in our slogans can lead to putting our solution in the region into practice. We have declared many times that we [word indistinct] OPEC but what matters to us first is to defend the Islamic Revolution and the glory of the Islamic Revolution. Of course, there is no contradiction between OPEC's long-term aims and the issue I referred to as having first-class importance.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 1,192

LD231922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,192 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During military operations in the past 24 hours on the southern fronts, thanks to the heavy fire of the artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all activities by the Iraqi military were neutralized. Enjoying military superiority, the forces of Islam defended their positions and halted enemy engineering and trench-digging operations on all fronts.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational theater, our combatants brought enemy positions under fire, destroying two slit trenches and an observation post and killing or injuring a number of Iraqi personnel.

As a result of enemy mortar fire yesterday, a number of houses were destroyed in Abadan.

During the past 24 hours, exchange of fire continued on the western fronts between the victorious forces of Islam and the Iraqi mercenaries.

In the Marivan sector, thanks to our forces' artillery fire on enemy positions in the Tutmam sector, a number of enemy slit trenches and an observation post were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed. In the Ilam sector, an enemy patrol group intending to infiltrate the (Shur Shirin) hill were forced to flee after suffering casualties, thanks to our forces' fire.

Exchange of fire continued yesterday on other western fronts. Patrol and tank hunting groups were dispatched to enemy positions; they captured a number weapons and destroyed a vehicle carrying personnel and nine slit trenches and foxholes.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,193

LD241746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,193 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Exchanges of fire continued yesterday between the combatants on the fronts under the protection of the Gendarmerie warriors in the Salehabad, Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and (Chogha Hamam) regions. The Saddamist forces suffered such losses that the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries opened heavy artillery fire on the town of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. As a result, several houses were demolished, one of our dear civilian compatriots was martyred, and several others were wounded.

In exchanges of fire on the Marivan front, the combatants of Islam pounded enemy positions in the (Hasan 'Abud) sector, halting activities and movements of the Iraqi forces. Silencing the enemy artillery fire in this sector, the combatants of Islam inflicted heavy losses on the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

The combatants of the Ground Forces are bravely positioned in their defensive line in the border regions of Bakhtaran. These combatants, guarding the region under their protection, returned enemy artillery fire and inflicted considerable losses and damages on the Saddamist forces. The visible losses of the Iraqi forces in this region included the destruction of one truck and several slit trenches and foxholes.

During the past 24 hours, fighting continued along the entire southern fronts of the country in the form of exchanges of artillery and other heavy arms fire. The combatants of Islam on these fronts, while consolidating their own defensive positions, returned enemy fire and dispatched patrol groups and tank hunting teams, inflicting losses and damages on the Iraqi forces and capturing several light weapons.

The warriors of the Gendarmerie on the Abadan front opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud. Silencing the fire of the Saddamist forces, they prevented the movement of enemy vehicles along the Al-Faw-Basra highway, destroyed more than eight slit trenches and foxholes of the Iraqi forces, and killed around 20 of Saddam's blasphemous troops.

Thanks to the tactics of the self-sacrificing warriors of the Air Force and the timely fire of the air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a certain limited number of enemy air intrusions in the southern and western border areas of the country, where there was possibility of aggression, were repulsed.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA REPORTS ON RECENT BATTLE SUCCESSES

Marivan Barrage

LD231216 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Sanandaj, Jan 22, IRNA -- All Iraqi forces' activities and artillery fire were checked over the past 24 hours when their positions in the Iraqi regions of (Biareh), (Tovaileh) and Ahmadabad were barraged by the Islamic defenders in the northwestern front of Marivan.

One 125 mm artillery piece, several bunkers and a jeep with its driver were destroyed by the Iranians in these operations.

Western Front Action

LD231202 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan 22, IRNA -- In a reconnaissance operation carried out by the Islamic patrol forces in one of the western fronts last night, a number of the Iraqi troops were killed.

Meanwhile, heavy weapons fire exchanges persisted in most of the western fronts, being more intense in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil theatre, with the Iranians holding the upper hand over the preceding 24 hours.

Nine Iraqi trenches and one vehicle were destroyed while more enemy troops were killed or wounded in these regions.

'Suicidal Attempt' in Ilam

LD231158 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Ilam, Jan 22, IRNA -- More than 50 aggressors were killed at 0330 hours local time Friday when the Islamic defenders severely smashed an enemy's suicidal attempt in the (Ghanguleh) region of Mehran, in Ilam Province.

The rest of the Iraqis were forced to flee leaving behind a considerable number of weapons and ammunition.

Reports reaching here from the region added that several Iraqi officers and NCO's including Captain Massud Judi were among those killed.

NVOI URGES SUPPORT FOR STEADFASTNESS FRONT

TA211106 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, our homeland's president, during a meeting with the Libyan minister of petroleum, while referring to the fact that strengthening the Steadfastness Front could be one of the main endeavors toward the establishment of a united anti-American and anti-Zionist front, stressed that progressive governments should play an essential role in preventing America's penetration in the region.

As our dear compatriots are aware, this is not the first time that our homeland's president has talked about the need to strengthen the Arab countries' Steadfastness Front and to establish a united anti-American and anti-Zionist front, and has invited the region's and the world's progressive countries to play an essential role in the struggle against U.S. penetration in the region.

It is also necessary to point out that among the Islamic Republic's committed and realistic leaders and government figures our homeland's president is not the only one who has talked so consistently and frankly about the need to strengthen and consolidate the Steadfastness Front and to establish a united and organized anti-American, anti-imperialist, and anti-Zionist front, both in the region and on the international scene. For instance, up to now, we repeatedly have heard similar statements from Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our homeland's chief of the legislative branch. However, the points one deems necessary to stress in connection with the remarks of our homeland's president is, first, the fact of the existence of a trend which, by possessing vast facilities in the Islamic Government and the mass media, including the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, is striving to implement in various aspects the policy of undermining the Steadfastness Front, to incite against each other the principles forming the Steadfastness Front, and to sow discord between the Steadfastness Front members and their greatest allies and most reliable supporters, namely, socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union. In other words, it is striving to implement the foreign policy of world-devouring America.

When the Israeli criminals were shedding the blood of the Palestinian and Lebanese people in U.S.-afflicted Lebanon and were committing the greatest and most unprecedented crimes in the history of mankind, what false items were not being published now and then in these very authorized newspapers of our homeland against this or that member country of the Steadfastness Front and their greatest ally and supporter, the Soviet Union.

In the thick of the bloody war against the aggressor Israel, Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, praised the helpful role of the Soviet Union to the Palestinian fighters in the Lebanese war, saying: The Palestinian people, in their anti-imperialist battle, have always looked upon the Soviet Union as a great friend and ally. 'Arafat while expressing appreciation for Soviet assistance announced: I present my warmest greetings to the Soviet people from the encircled city of Beirut and thank them for their support of the Palestinians' battle. He said with a loud voice: I have to affirm that the Soviet Union was and is at our side, and in this sensitive and complex historical moment has adopted an unshakable stance in our defense. Meanwhile, in our homeland's authorized newspapers, certain individuals, in accordance with a calculated plan, were feeding readers provocative items fabricated by imperialist and Zionist news agencies against member countries of the Steadfastness Front, particularly against the Soviet Union -- so much so that the Libyan and Syrian Embassies were forced to protect against these provocative acts.

The elements forming this trend are known by everyone. They are the very penetrating elements, the same CIA-afflicted hojjatis, the railroading liberals, the elements of major capitalists and large landowners in government organizations and institutions, and the ignorant friends of the revolution who with utmost power are endeavoring to implement the policy of world-devouring America regarding our liberated homeland, member countries of the Steadfastness Front and socialist and anti-imperialist countries, thus dealing the greatest blows to the gains of the popular revolution and our nation's anti-imperialist struggle.

Another point the emphasis of which in connection with the remarks by our homeland's president is vitally important is that how can we achieve this main goal of our revolution, namely, strengthening the Steadfastness Front and establishing a united anti-American and anti-Zionist front? Very recently, our homeland's president himself, during a meeting with Cuba's new ambassador to Iran, while recounting our nation's anti-imperialist and popular gains in connection with the struggle against world-devouring America, replied to this question, even if implicitly: We repeatedly have said that any country which in any way acts against the policies of the United States and which harms America will be our friend.

If the managers of foreign policy and government figures and officials of our homeland had used this very correct guideline by the president as the basis of their work in strengthening the Steadfastness Front and in establishing a united anti-American and anti-Zionist front, definitely today the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran would have been different, and the America expelled from revolutionary Iran would not have been able to escalate its military presence in the region in such a manner.

Yes, we must consider as our friend any country that acts in any way against the policies of the United States and which harms America's aggressive policy. We must strive with utmost power to consolidate friendship and alliance with that country, thus while strengthening the Steadfastness Front of the region's anti-imperialist countries, on the international level too, we would be achieving the establishment of a united and powerful anti-American and anti-Zionist front.

Unfortunately, the ill-considered measures by some of the authorities in the Islamic government are in most instances diametrically opposed to this guideline by our homeland's president. They not only do not pay the slightest heed to friendship with the foes of world-devouring America and the Zionist Israel but on the one hand they have strived and continue to strive to establish cordial friendship with subservient regimes that implement the directives of the White House, such as Ziaul Haq's regime. On the other hand, they heap all kinds of abuse at the true friends of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by the Soviet Union, and have adopted a totally hostile stand against this friendly and neighboring country. The continuation of such an approach and policy does great damage to strengthening the Steadfastness Front and establishing a wide and united anti-imperialist front.

CLERGYMAN 'MARTYRED' BY KURDISH PARTY 'AGENTS'

LD231410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Mullah 'Aziz Jangali, one of the militant clergymen of Salmas and supervisor of this city's Sunni clergy, was martyred by the pro-American criminals and the agents of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party.

This militant and committed clergyman, who was blind, was kidnapped last Thursday night before the eyes of his wife and children from the village of Ahgarm, 20 km to the southwest of Salmas, and was later martyred.